

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

4209

SERIES/No

CONTRACTOR

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March 1984

TITLE

Identification of the bone artefacts
from Castle Street, Carlisle 1981-83

1st report

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1981-83
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D.J. Rackham

The following small finds were studied and where possible identified as to the bone used in their manufacture and the species from which they derive. Where this was not possible a cruder non-specific identification was made, such as long bone shaft, large animal or even just bone. This latter category, bone, is used to distinguish non-antler from antler. Finds that could not be identified at all are catalogued as bone or antler.

Site Code CAR 81 CST

Context & Small Find No.	Description	Identification
B 540 B 64	Drilled bone	Sheep metatarsus, left, complete. Proximal end with a hole cut in the end axially, and a second posteriorly into the bone cavity.
B 513 B 65	Drilled bone	Sheep metatarsus, left, complete. Hole cut in the middle of the shaft, front to back.
B 505 B 66	Drilled bone	Sheep metacarpus, left, complete. Hole cut in the middle of the shaft, front to back.
B 407 B 67	Pin-head	Bone or antler. Degradation obscured the structural characters.

Site Code CAR 82 CST

B + B 45	Horn object	Red deer antler tine with tip sharpened and beam end sawn, worked and with a hole cut in it.
B 1446 B 51	Part of object	Made from a long bone shaft (probably a metapodial) of an ox-sized animal.
B 1493 B 55	Awl?	Unworked. Horse lateral metapodial.
B 1544 B 58	Knife handle?	Manufactured from a red deer antler tine.
B 1621 B 60	Offcut	Piece of red deer antler crown. Tines and beam sawn off. One edge somewhat worn. Other cuts and saw marks.

B +	B 61	Worked bone	Antler- red deer. Worked and sawn beam fragment.
B 513	B 62	Counter	Made from a long bone shaft- probably from an ox-sized animal.
B 509	B 63 <7>	Pin head	Manufactured from the shaft of a long bone, size unknown.

Site Code CAR 83 CST

B 414	<4>	Two bone pins	Both manufactured from long bone shafts of an ox-sized animal.
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Discussion

This group of finds includes three sheep metapodials with minimal working, having a hole cut in the shaft or the proximal end. The pins and counters are all made from long bone shafts, such as metacarpi and metatarsi, as illustrated in the report on the finds from Blackfriars (Rackham, n.d.) although one pin was too degraded to confidently identify as appendicular bone rather than antler.

Find B 55 described as an awl is unworked and apparently unused and is the natural shape for a horse lateral metapodial. Where such finds show no evidence of polish or other use it is not possible to classify them as artefacts although in some circumstances they may have been exploited. There are three fragments of red deer antler one of which was an offcut.

Rackham, D.J. n.d. The identification of the bone small finds from Blackfriars, Carlisle. Ancient Monuments Report No. 4054